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To the Honorable Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

**I support H.B. 5290 AN ACT SUNSETTING THE HIGHWAY USE TAX
and urge you to vote for it.**

HB 5290 will allow the Highway use tax to end. This tax levied on trucks that bring almost everything the residents of CT consume is passed along to all of us, the consumers who are your constituents, making everything we purchase and use here more expensive. The cost of living in CT is very high as we are highly taxed and we also pay the second highest electricity costs (after Hawaii) in the country as well as very high prices for home heating oil, natural gas, gasoline for our vehicles, food, clothing, rent and everything else people require to live here.

The more inhospitable the economic climate in CT becomes, the more unaffordable CT becomes, the more businesses and people will continue to flee our state for more affordable, business-friendly states with lower costs of living and lower taxes. With them go the jobs, the people created them as well as the employees who filled them. And our state will continue to decline with a higher cost of living, higher unemployment than the rest of the country and a shrinking tax base. CT could also experience shortages if it becomes too expensive for trucks to bring the goods and energy products we need to live here. Economist Arthur Laffer says “If you want less of something then tax it more, but if you want more of something tax it less!”

Please vote for H.B. 5290. And allow the Highway use tax to expire. Let’s make life in CT affordable again!

Respectfully submitted,
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